

## Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PRS-01 SAB-01 L-03 EB-07 /055 W

----- 104233

P R 282255Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7576

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 2924

TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR SHELTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NU

SUBJECT: NICARAGUAN REACTION TO THIRD COUNTRY ISSUES

REF: STATE 172095

1. THE EFFECT ON OFFICIAL U.S. RELATIONS WITH NICARAGUA OF DEVELOPMENTS OF ISSUES INVOLVING THIRD COUNTRIES WILL IN GENERAL BE AFFECTED BY THE CHARACTER OF NICARAGUA'S STRONGLY PRO-U.S. AND ANTI-COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT WHICH IS STILL APPREHENSIVE ABOUT CUBAN INTENTIONS, BUT WHICH ALSO IS SENSITIVE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF POTENTIAL ISOLATION AMONG LATIN AMERICANS, PARTICULARLY IF ITS POSITION IS

RUNNING COUNTER TO THE ATTITUDES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. IN FACT IT IS PROBABLY MORE SENSITIVE, OR CERTAINLY EQUALLY AS SENSITIVE, TO U.S. POSITIONS IN THAT IT IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING LEFT OUT ON THE LIMB Y ACTIONS WHICH THE UNITES STATES WOULD TAKE WITHOUT PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF THE GON. SPECIFICALLY, THE GON FAVORS AS MUCH DELAY AS POSSIBLE IN LIFTING SANCTIONS, ALTHOUGH IT RECOGNIZES THAT THIS IS MERELY A MATTER OF TIME. THE LIFTING OF SANCTIONS BY THE UNITED STATES WILL CAUSE SOME SLIGHT CONCERN HERE, CONFIDENTIAL

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BUT IT SHOULD NOT EFFECT RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. GREATLY, PROVIDED

WE MAKE SYMPATHETIC NOISES REGARDING GON ANXIETIES ABOUT SUSPECTED CUBAN DESIGNS ON NICARAGUA.

2. THE GON IS FRANKLY SUSPICIOUS OF RECIPROCAL MOVES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CUBA BELIEVING THAT THEY WILL LEAD EVENTUALLY TO A RAPPROACHEMENT. FEARING THAT IMPROVEMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS WILL WEAKEN US RESOLVE TO AT LEAST MORALLY ASSIST AGAINST CASTROIST THREAT LOCALLY, THESE MOVES WILL ENGENDER MISTRUST TOWARD THE UNITED STATES. THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THESE PRESSURES COULD EVENTUALLY CAUSE NICARAGUA TO REDUCE ITS UNFRIENDLY PROFILE TOWARD CUBA BY ADOPTING GREATER LATIN SOLIDARITY COLORATION.

2. SOMOZA IS FAIRLY FATALISTIC ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS ON CANAL TREATY. HE IS SATISFIED WITH STATUS QUO AND FEARS INTERRUPTIONS IN CANAL OPERATIONS AND UNREASONABLE DEMANDS AS FAR AS TOLL CHARGES ARE CONCERNED BY PANAMA IF TOO MANY CONCESSIONS ARE GIVEN TO WHAT HE CONSIDERS ARE THE ERRATIC PANAMANIAN. ALTHOUGH GENERAL TORRIJOS IS A PERSONAL FRIEND OF SOMOZA, SOMOZA DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT HE IS EITHER PARTICULARLY INTELLIGENT OR TRUSTWORTHY, AND THEREFORE HAS SOME DIFFICULTY IN UNDERSTANDING U.S. WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE TREATY WITH THIS PARTICULAR PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE WILL GRIN AND BEAR A NEWLY NEGOTIATED TREATY. HE DOES NOT APPEAR TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF THE PREDICTED BLOODY CLASHES BETWEEN TH PANAMANIAN AND THE US IF WE RENEGE, PARTICULARLY REALISTIC OR SIGNIFICANTLY DANGEROUS. THE UNITED STATES WOULD LOSE SOME PRESTIGE IN SOMOZA'S EYES IF WE APPEAR TO GIVE AWAY TOO MUCH SINCE IT WOULD INDICATE TO HIM AN EXAMPLE OF US WEAKNESS, BUT OVERALL - THE ISSUE IS NOT CRUCIAL TO NICARAGUA AS LONG AS THE CANAL RATES REMAIN REASONABLE, AND THE CANAL IS WELL OPERATED.

4. THE GON BELIEVES THAT THE DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT OF VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR IN THE TRADE ACT WAS UNWISE AND UNJUST. THE FAILURE TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE BY NOW TENDS TO DISTURB THE GON IN THAT IT ENCOURAGES AN IMAGE OF AN EXECUTIVE BRANCH WHICH HAS NOT OBTAINED THIS STATED OBJECTIVE. WE SUSPECT THIS IS EQUALLY AS DISTURBING TO OTHER LATIN COUNTRIES WHO FEAR THAT THE INCONCLUSIVE STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH IN THE UNITED STATES TENDS TO UNDERMINE CONFIDENCE IN THE WORD AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE USG IN OTHER SPHERES.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, SANCTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 JUL 1975  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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